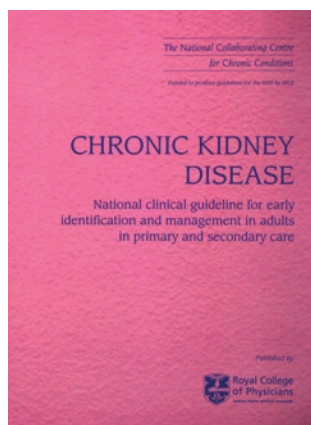


Chronic Kidney Disease: National Clinical Guideline for Early Identification and Management in Adults in Primary and Secondary Care



National Collaborating Centre for Chronic Conditions

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Reviewed by Maya K. Rao

This 204-page paperback text outlines the new chronic kidney disease (CKD) guideline from the National Collaborating Centre for Chronic Conditions (NCC-CC), commissioned by the United Kingdom's National Health Service and funded by the respected National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The book is organized into 13 chapters, with chapters 1–3 describing the development of the guideline, and chapters 4–15 each outlining a specific part of the guideline on subjects

such as CKD identification, CKD progression, referral criteria, and management of anemia, renal bone disease, and cardiovascular disease. The recommendations are based on a methodical and thorough review of the published literature where available and on expert opinion of the guideline development group in areas where studies are lacking. Chapter 3 summarizes the key points of the guideline and includes figures portraying algorithms for identifying and treating patients with CKD. Each of the remaining chapters follows the same outline. Beginning with a title that identifies the clinical question being addressed, each chapter is then divided into the following sections: Clinical Introduction, which provides an overview of the question; Methodology, in which the authors review the various studies addressing the particular clinical question; Health Economics Methodology, in which the authors review any cost-effectiveness studies; Evidence Statements, in which the authors detail specific data relevant to the chapter topic; From Evidence to Recommendations, in which the authors describe how they have used the evidence they have presented in the chapter to form the recommendations; and finally, Recommendations, in which the authors outline the specific recommendations. In the Evidence Statements section, the data described are graded by level of evidence, from level 1++ for high-quality

meta-analyses, systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials, or randomized controlled trials with a very low risk of bias, to level 4 for expert opinion as outlined in the NICE guideline manual. Particular strengths of this text include the consistent layout of each chapter, which has resulted in a clear outline of the evidence behind each recommendation, as well as the attempt to include a cost-effectiveness analysis where data are available. In the preface, Dr. Higgins, the director of the NCC-CC, writes, "The Department of Health, in commissioning this guideline, was clear that the focus was to be on early detection and management... The key priority recommendations singled out in the guideline reflect this emphasis. They present clear criteria for testing for CKD, suspecting progressive CKD, and referring people for specialist assessment, all of which should be useful in primary care." The text includes a glossary and a valuable list of references on which the guideline is based. The chapters also include tables that summarize the available evidence for each recommendation with the associated reference number. This text would be useful to primary-care practitioners who want to read more about CKD clinical practice guidelines. For nephrologists, the text would be invaluable not only for learning about the specific recommendations but also for understanding the data on which the guidelines are based.

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